2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

30 June 2005

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Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 17 May 2005, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de Queiroz Duarte ..... (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Al-Anbuki** (Iraq) said that the Iraqi delegation would cooperate in order to achieve consensus on the recommendations and decisions of the Conference. His country was in the process of creating modern institutions that would reflect the aspirations of all Iraqi citizens, whose determination to build a democratic, pluralistic country at peace with itself, its neighbours and the world on the basis of mutual respect, common interests, non-intervention in domestic matters and rejection of violence and terrorism had been evident in the general elections held on 30 January 2005. Iraq would spare no effort to exert its influence through its deep and diverse cultural heritage, which had contributed much to human civilization. Although the past three decades had been painful, it was now possible to look forward to a secure future in which the region was rid completely of weapons of mass destruction.

2. In conformity with article 27 (e) of the Administration for the State of Iraq Act of 8 March 2004, senior Iraqi officials were convinced of the need for universal accession to and compliance with the international conventions and treaties on the eradication of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq would accede to and respect conventions and treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, support international initiatives such as the Proliferation Security Initiative and work to promulgate laws and legislation that could achieve that purpose.

3. He welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the establishment of the 1540 Committee, to which his country had submitted a national report pursuant to paragraph 4 of the same resolution. An Iraqi institution to ban weapons programmes proliferation and an Iraqi centre for science and industry had been established, both of which worked with experts and scholars previously engaged in restricted programmes.

4. Efforts that would ensure the effectiveness of the treaties and conventions on disarmament and non-proliferation were needed. Cooperation was a duty in order to prevent the evident threat posed to collective security by terrorist networks from becoming a reality.

5. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) formed the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation system and had been acceded to by numerous States. The review conferences had strengthened and expanded global acceptance of the Treaty and enabled it to keep abreast of international change. The Arab States had all rejected the nuclear option and acceded to the Treaty, convinced that it could contribute to regional security through the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons. However, the refusal of Israel to accede to the Treaty called into question its universal nature. A mechanism for implementation of the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction was needed and would unite the efforts that had been made by the League of Arab States since 1994.

6. It had been made clear in the report prepared by the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (A/59/565) that nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons would pose a significant threat to the entire world in coming decades and that it was important to implement the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament committed to by nuclear-weapon States in 2000.

7. **Mr. Smith** (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 10 (G-10), which also included Austria, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden, introduced the working paper on article V, article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.9) and suggested that it should be submitted to Main Committees I and III.

8. **Mr. Husain** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States parties to the NPT, introduced four working papers: the first dealt with procedural and other arrangements for the effective and successful outcome of the current Conference (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.17); and the second, third and fourth concerned substantive issues to be considered by Main Committee I (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.18), Main Committee II (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.19) and Main Committee III (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.20) respectively. He drew attention also to the Group's omnibus working paper (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.8), which had been introduced at the 2nd meeting, on 2 May 2005.

9. The five working papers submitted by the Group represented a comprehensive outline of its positions on various questions pertaining to the operation and functioning of the NPT. They also contained recommendations for consideration by States parties to the Treaty which would help to strengthen the review process and the full implementation of the provisions of the Treaty, taking into account the decisions and resolution adopted during the 1995 Review Conference as well as the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference.

10. **Mr. Mine** (Japan) introduced a working paper, submitted by his delegation, proposing further measures for strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.21). Other such measures, proposed jointly by the NPT, Japan and Australia, which covered issues for submission to Main Committee I, were to be found in document NPT/CONF.2005/WP.34.

11. Progress must be made on each of the three pillars of the NPT, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in order to strengthen the credibility and functioning of the NPT regime. Working papers Nos. 21 and 34 put forward specific wording on those three aspects of the Treaty. His delegation hoped that the working papers would help the Conference to issue robust and clear messages that would enable the NPT regime to be further consolidated.

12. Speaking also on behalf of Egypt, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden, he introduced a working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.17), which built on earlier working papers submitted by the foregoing countries on the same subject. Such education played an invaluable role in the international community's efforts to implement its obligations under the NPT and ensured that Governments, diplomats and international institutions remained accountable for their actions in that regard. It also assisted in increasing awareness of the ever-present dangers of nuclear weapons and in creating a deeper understanding of the NPT regime as a whole. A steadfast approach was needed to tackle current challenges, and disarmament and non-proliferation education provided the necessary impetus to move the international community's efforts forward.

13. His delegation particularly welcomed the valuable input from the NGO community during the current Conference. The efforts of NGOs played an essential role in the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation. Working paper No. 17 of the Preparatory Committee was aimed at encouraging Governments, international organizations, regional organizations, civil society, academic organizations and the media to promote implementation of the recommendations contained in United Nations studies on disarmament and non-proliferation education and to take specific steps towards that end. It contained a series of concise and practical recommendations to further the aims of the NPT.

14. His delegation welcomed the strong support expressed by Argentina, Canada and Kyrgystan for the working paper, which called on States to voluntarily share information during the Review Conference on efforts they had been making in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and in particular to implement the recommendations in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124).

15. **Mr. Rock** (Canada) introduced the working paper in document NPT/CONF.2005/WP.38.

16. **Mr. Kayser** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, said that the European Union was concerned that time was running out for the consideration of substantive issues. It remained committed to a substantive outcome of the Conference and appealed to all delegations to deal expeditiously with the procedural issues that remained outstanding.

17. He introduced the working paper in document NPT/CONF.2005/WP.32, entitled "Withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", which he was submitting on behalf of the European Union.

18. **Mr. Bafidi Nejad** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on a point of order, said it had been the understanding of his delegation that the list of speakers for the current meeting was limited to the representatives of Iraq and Australia. While the working papers being introduced were very interesting, it appeared that the meeting was becoming an extension of the general debate, which was no substitute for real negotiation on the substantive issues before the Review Conference.

19. **The President** said that, at the previous meeting, he had invited any delegation that wished to do so to introduce a working paper in the plenary meeting.

20. **Mr. Fathallah** (Egypt) introduced the working paper submitted by his delegation (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.36) on the implementation of the 1995 resolution and 2000 outcome on the Middle East, which addressed the question of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

21. **Mr. Hu** Xiaodi (China) introduced document NPT/CONF.2005/WP.2, entitled "Nuclear disarmament and reduction of the danger of nuclear war", for incorporation in the report of Main Committee I; document NPT/CONF.2005/WP.3, entitled "Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons", for incorporation in the report of Main Committee II; and document NPT/CONF.2005/WP.6, entitled "Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy", for incorporation in the report of Main Committee III.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.